

**Pollyanna and Nehi,
Bonnie Evans and the Pig,
and I
Wish You a Happy New Year
By John Haws**

I have always had a Happy New Year. It was always a magical night for me. Most of the time the night was filled with wondrous parties with friends and family. It has always been a magical night where you wore hats and blew festive horns and threw serpentine and confetti. My greatest memories of New Years has involved Grandma Edith and Pollyanna; and Bonnie Evans and the Pig.

When I was young I always stayed with my Grandmother Haws on New Years Eve while my parents went to a party. Her home still stands at 30 North and 100 East in Lehi. She would always get out old quart bottles of Nehi drinks and we would drink to the New Year. I was always excited when she would have grandpa pull out those old dingy bottles for us to drink. I never knew how long she had them, but those bottles would be antiques today. (I'm not sure they weren't antiques then) I knew she had them a long time, because they had to be dusted off. She would then let us choose one of her hand dipped chocolates and it was a festive time.

We would play a game called Pollyanna, a game similar to Parcheesi. Pollyanna was a game created in 1915 by Parker Brothers and went out of print in 1967. My brothers and Sisters have found games on Ebay... and we have copied and made versions of our own. It is family game and to this day, we get together with my brothers and sisters to have a most competitive session of Pollyanna. Sometimes we call it our therapy David always accuses me of cheating like my grandmother did. She would put the man on the line so she could push it forward if it helped her cause. It makes me so angry when David accuses me. It is usually when I am winning and I then fall apart and he can overtake me. Those New Year Eves of playing games brought great traditions to my siblings and I. Sometimes we play all night long until my Sister Laurene can win. She will not allow anyone to

leave until she wins. This is a great memory.

The most important New Years tradition for me involves Pigs and Bonnie Evans. Bonnie Evans, a well known Lehi Red-headed tradition, has some of the greatest events in her family, I have ever known. Today I just want to share with you her story of the New Years Pig. Many years ago, she introduced the pig to me. It has lasting memories and great impacts on my life.

Bonnie, with her beautiful red hair, and her matter of fact charm, told me one New Years that I needed to begin the “Pig” tradition for New Years. She introduced me to the Pig by delivering a pink chocolate pig wrapped in cellophane and tied with a bow. This pink pig was decorated as only Bonnie could. She instructed me that with New Years, you need to follow the pig. Pigs always goes forward. The Pig represents going into the New Year looking toward the upcoming days with excitement. She has always emphasized the term “onward and upward” as the term of our lives. Whenever a setback occurs, she just tells us to “buck up” and move “onward and upward” in the fight for life.

She always says the Pig never looks back or spends time mourning the past, but goes forward with fervent oinks for the New Year. Every New Years Day, her family has a pork dinner and they always talk about the great things that they are going to accomplish in the New Year. The Pig never looks back with regret but looks forward to exciting times with the coming of the New Year. At the table is a pink chocolate Pig. and each person takes a slice of the pig and then states their choices for success to do in the upcoming months.

I love this tradition and it has become a tradition for me. I was always wondering where she came up with this tradition. Recently I found that New Years day evolved in Austria. In Austria 1691, Pope Innocent XII declared January 1 to be New Year’s Day. In Austria, New Year’s Eve is called Sylvesterabend which is the Eve of Saint Sylvester.

Dinner in Austria is a big occasion on New Year's Day. This is the day they eat suckling pig. The pig symbolizes good luck. Often the table is decorated with little miniature pigs made of marzipan, maple sugar, fudge, cookie dough or

chocolate. They make wishes as they eat their little miniature pigs made of marzipan.

At the turn of the century, most New Years cards (mostly postcards) were drawn with pigs on the cards. They were sent to their love ones for the New Year. Each had a beautiful card, but all had a pig as a major component on the card.

You know that at the Evan's Lehi home to this day, her children and her grandchildren are set up at the table with pig dishes, pig napkins, and pig roast and all the trimmings and pink chocolate pigs to make wishes with.

Each New Years Eve, we receive a knock on the door and Kirk and Bonnie deliver a Pink Chocolate Pig for the New Year. Each year we have a pulled pork dinner and we also make our wishes with the Pink Chocolate Pig.

Every New Years, I do not make New Years Resolutions. I try to follow Bonnie's example of going forward... "onward and upward" and those items that I am going to accomplish. I try not to look backward, but forward. Everytime I see a pig, I think of what I am going to accomplish in the New Year.

This New Years, to all of you in Lehi, think of Bonnie Evans and her table spread with a Pork Roast and all of her family around and saying what they are going to accomplish in the New Year. May all of you incorporate her saying, "ONWARD AND UPWARD" and march, without looking backward with regret, forward into the New Year.

Happy New Year from the Lehi Archives...May you enjoy reading the pig stories of Lehi.